

Newsletter April 2020

*The Unitarian Church of Underwood
is a welcoming community of
diverse people where our
celebration of life and common
search for meaning bind us
together.*

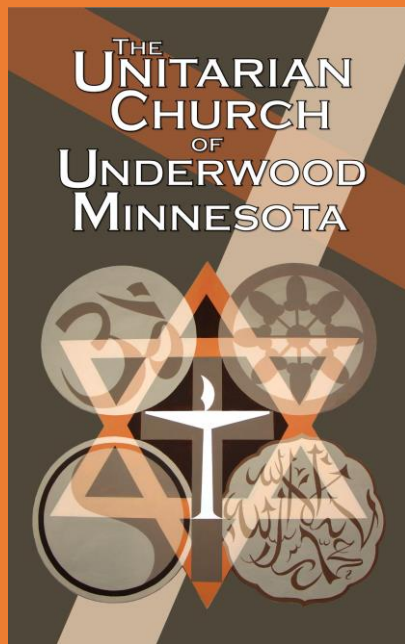
Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street
Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



**Due to precautions against the
spreading of the Corona Virus,
church services, meetings &
activities are suspended until
further notice.**

Watch for new ["UCU Weekly"](http://www.ucofu.org)
and check: www.ucofu.org for
www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



For now, may all of you stay safe.

May you attend faithfully to all the small
and steady ways you've found to soothe your
anxious heart.

Attend to these with care, the same care you
take

to drink water,

the care you take to stay well.

May those you love be held and protected,
children and elders, those near and far.

May we all find ways to center those in our
midst who

are now the most vulnerable:

neighbors whose names we may not even know,
communities at the margins, who are now at the
center of risk.

May we make space to wonder, how can I help?
and find ways to answer with glad and grateful
hearts,

for this question holds healing, for us and for all.
Friends, let's draw the circle wide, and keep the
circle whole.

*Rev. Victoria Safford, White Bear Unitarian
Church*

Stay^oinformED

"Like" UCU on Facebook: see
www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Contact Wally Warhol for Sunday announcements
@ ucunderwood4@gmail.com

Contact Kris Warhol for local media notifications.

U Group Schedule

Temporarily Suspended

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. home of Susan Groff. Facilitators: Bob Worner/Kris Warhol.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Melody Shores.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. @ Stan Carignan's. Facilitator: Stan Carignan.

Each group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to come and join the group.

To learn more or join a group, contact Lead Facilitator:
Shannon Smith @ shannonsmith20@gmail.com
Or 320/630-6229

New!!!

UCU Weekly

Watch for these and other
ucofu@ucofu.org email messages.

Participate in the **Zoom** invitations for
Sunday service & social hour
Let's Stay Connected!!!

Newsletter Submissions due prior to Issuance the 1st of each month

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:

Writer/Editor: Mary Anderson

[Editing: Stephanie Sanderson](#)

[Emailing/mailling: Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson](#)

[Website: Ellen Eastby](#)

[Facebook: Melody Shores](#)

[Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.](#)

[Credited Articles](#)

UCU Weekly:

Designed by Ellen Eastby

Editing by Mary Anderson

[Note: Send Announcements for UCU Weekly and monthly newsletter to \[newseditor@ucofu.org\]\(mailto:newseditor@ucofu.org\). As appropriate, some will be forwarded for inclusion @ \[www.ucofu.org\]\(http://www.ucofu.org\) and Facebook Page.](#)

**Adult Religious Education Classes and
Mindfulness Sitting on Sundays are
Temporarily Suspended until further notice**

Church Services and meetings Suspended due to Corona Virus Precautions

Dear Members and Friends:

As we have been paying close attention to updates, the board of directors is following these recommendations: with regards to holding services and all meetings, we are suspending both.

We take into consideration all our members' lives. We are seeing this virus multiply daily with no end in sight.

We are exploring virtual gatherings through the internet. Those will be unfolding within the next few weeks. Meantime, please stay in touch with each other through email and phone contact.

These are unprecedented times, and this may seem extreme now, but down the road these measures will protect COVID-19 spreading.

*The UCU Board of Directors
March 16th, 2020*

UCU Connections Task Force & Volunteers



Because of the threats of COVID-19, within just the last few months, the world populations' health and economic well-being have been shifted and many are shaking. Within the last few weeks, the smaller world of the Unitarian Church of Underwood has shifted, but it has NOT been shaken. Hands and voices have been raised to meet the challenges, reinforcing that this is a community bound together in justice, compassion, equity and love; that connections are strong within the web of our existence, interwoven within and expanding outward. Connections abound!

Soon after suspension of services, several UCU individuals began thinking about how to maintain UCU presence and to express continued care and concern for members and friends. Ideas emerged. A "quick action response team" was formed and met via Zoom. Request was made to the Board for a charge with the designation of this group to continue as the "UCU Connections Task Force." The Task Force is comprised of Committee Chairs: Betsy Wells,

Speakers Committee; Mary Worner, Sunday Service Coordination Committee; Ellen Eastby, Celebrants and Communications Committee; Norm Kolstad, Safety Committee; Mary Anderson, Membership Committee; Tere Mann, Technical Support Team Lead; and Congregational Administrator, Bonnie Graham, Church Administrator. The purpose of the Task Force is act as a clearinghouse to coordinate and assure continued care and spiritual support to members and friends of the church.

The Communications Committee under the leadership of Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson spearheaded production of the new "UCU Weekly." The Weekly will provide information on what's happening, video conferencing links and other resource links, and give opportunities for sharing your Joys and Concerns and what you are doing to survive/thrive during these isolating days. The other tools of communications will continue via the ucofu.org website and FB Page, church emails and this monthly newsletter.

The Technical Support Team with technology already on hand or able to be quickly enhanced provided the technical support and the means to establish the virtual presence of the Unitarian Church of Underwood. (Ellen Eastby, Tere Mann, Melody Shores, Bonnie Showers and newly added: Jim Francis and Robb Sutter.)

The Membership Committee (Mary Anderson, Molly Delarbre, John & Janell Miersch, Bonnie Showers, Mary Worner) and UCU Volunteers (Alison Francis, Katy Olson, Ron Roller, Dave and Stephanie Sanderson) spearheaded making phone calls or other contacts to each UCU member and friend to inquire as to each's health and any need for special services. Callers are reporting back with joy in doing this and called members and friends are expressing their appreciation for the calls.

The Speakers Committee (Betsy Wells), Sunday Service Worship Committee (Mary Worner), Celebrant, Ellen Eastby, and Congregational Administrator, Bonnie Graham with Technical Support Team help (Bonnie Showers, Melody Shores and Tere Mann) coordinated the means and links for us to continue to worship and seek spiritual inspiration through our own services and links to other resources.

Norm Kolstad, Chair of the Safety Committee with input from Susan Groff, Facilities Committee provided oversight to assure the safety and well-being of the church buildings and of the membership.

Bonnie Graham, Congregational Administrator is coordinating the Zoom conferencing, providing the supports and providing links to other resources and other needed assists.

Support is given from the Board of Directors for all those stepping forward with measures to meet this emergency and yet continue the mission of the Unitarian Church of Underwood.

Like every other organization and the people involved, the Unitarian Church of Underwood did not expect this natural disaster of a pandemic but had in place the structure, the technology

and equipment and the means to address the issues and most importantly, committed volunteers within our own congregation to meet the challenges. Gratefulness and thanks are in order. THANK YOU! *The UCU Connections Task Force: Betsy Wells, Mary Worner, Ellen Eastby, Norm Kolstad, Mary Anderson, Tere Mann, and Bonnie Graham*

Board of Directors

The Unitarian Church of Underwood Board of Directors will conduct “almost normal” business using email, the phone and sometimes video conferencing for communicating and meetings. This period is about the busiest time in the church year, so the budget and board positions are among the decision items. We are pleased that so many have stepped forward to maintain the business and presence of the church during these perilous times. UCU is fortunate in that there is familiarity among the membership on the use of technology. So, we are taking advantage of what we have and of who knows how to enhance usage. One application is “Zoom” for video conferencing. To learn more about Zoom, see below.

April Services Virtual Sunday Services

We have exciting news! Friends and members of the Unitarian Church of Underwood will now meet virtually Sunday Morning using Zoom. If you've never used Zoom, don't worry. We have everything you need to know about Zoom so you can participate in the Sunday service . You can find that information at www.ucofu.org/Zoom/Zoom.pdf. It was also sent out via email on March 27th. Please note that a different link is used each Sunday. That link will be sent out by ucofu.org email every Friday. We also have three wonderful technical support people ready to help you via email or telephone: Tere Mann, Bonnie Showers and Melody Shores. You can reach them at techhelp@ucofu.org. We hope to see you on Zoom!



Twenty in all participated in the first “zoomed” Sunday service!!!

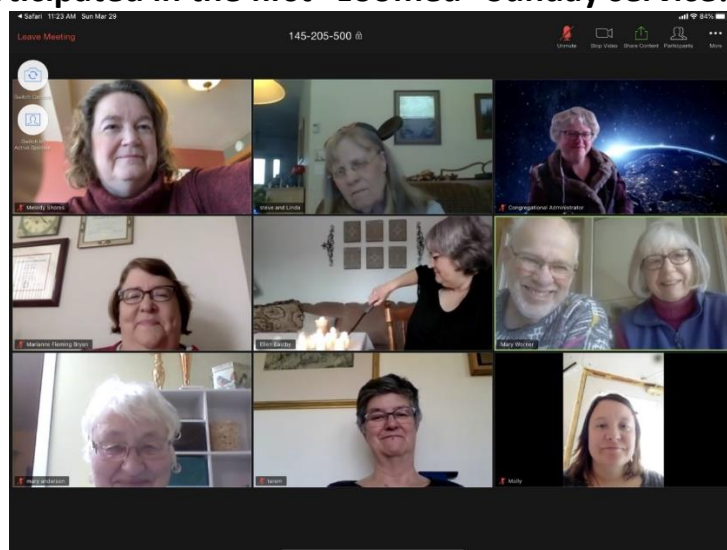


Photo Courtesy of Melody Shores March 29, 2020

And More!

During this stay-at-home time, you are invited to participate in our own virtual Sunday service or view on-line services listed above or listen to any of the 129 UCU Podcasts at :

<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/>

Deb Wallwork provided these links:

Rev. Victoria Stafford at White Bear Lake UU is focused on spirituality, and she refers often to writers and poets as her sources of wisdom. March's theme was Attention: The Practice of Centering. John Heine & Deb enjoyed the Sermon "Bring a Blessing."

<https://whitebearunitarian.org/sermons/>

David Breeden, the senior minister, of First Universalist Society, would be, perhaps, characterized as having more of an intellectual and philosophical approach. Deb & John attended January 5th, and quite enjoyed the sermon "The Crooked Timber of Ourselves."

<https://firstunitarian.org/category/podcasts/>

First Universalist, like the others is focused on individual spirituality, with perhaps more emphasis on current events and social justice. John Heine and Deb (living in the Twin Cities) have attended several times. On November 3, John especially enjoyed the sermon by Rev. Justin Schroeder "You Reading This: Be Ready." <https://firstuniversalistchurch.org/upcoming-sermons/>

Henry Mott has provided the link from the Unity Unitarian Church that he and **Marty Prentice** attend: <https://www.unityunitarian.org/>

Thank you to all contributing information.

Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol



Creating a safe place for worship has been the priority of the governing board and then COVID 19 brings the house down. We now exercise social distancing and reside safe at home. Leaving the house has become risky business.

Sunday the 22nd, Bonnie Albers picked up Lance's painting from the Ellison room. (The painting "Tree of Life" was on loan from Lance for the last several years.) We agreed on 10:00 a.m. I removed the piece and was waiting at the door for her arrival. After she wrapped it carefully and placed it in the back end of the car, we both sat talking to each other for an hour. We had



our conversation in the Ellison room. Being in our church admiring the beauty of this space is sacred.

When Wally and I first walked through the doors. Marguerite greeted us. Immediately she asked, "where are you from?" "Underwood," we replied. What a joy of acceptance we both felt. We found a home where we belonged.

Now isolation engulfs us all as we move through this pandemic and navigate a new world. We have history here and many hours dedicated to expanding church both inside the house and within our surrounding communities. We are moving into worshiping web connections. We are thankful for the various members keeping the connections open.

Being rooted in something larger and truer than just us puts our lives into perspective. We have one another to lean into. There is strength in surviving in this temporary world. This takes true courage. Be comforted in knowing this will pass. May we all move into the sacred work of evolution together. What is community without one another?

Kris Warhol

Thank You



After 3 weeks of illness, and after 9 days of waiting for the results of the Corona Virus test, David Wass has learned that he tested negative. David and his wife, Susan Groff thank you for the many inquiries and well wishes for their health. David seems to now be on his way to recovery and Susan's many efforts to take care of David and protect herself from also becoming ill have seemed to pay off. To many healthy days ahead!



Annual Fundraising Chili Dinner

Scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2018

Postponed until further notice



Postponement of

April 19th Annual Meeting of the Membership

The Annual Meeting scheduled for April 19, 2020 is postponed. The UCU By-laws state that:
ARTICLE VI. ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Meeting. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held in the first quarter of the church year. Special Congregational meetings may be called by the Board by giving at least 10 days written notice to the congregation's active membership. The church year begins the first day of April each year and ends the 31st day of March the following year.

That means we have from April 1 – June 30 to fit in an annual meeting. Watch for further announcements.



Hiring of Bonnie Graham for Temporary Congregational Administrator

We welcome Bonnie Graham as a new employee of UCU. She has many skills and much knowledge – being a long time Unitarian who can support us in many ways. She will be a big asset to the Sunday Speakers Committee by helping follow up on the details of the visits of confirmed speakers. She will also manage scheduling of service leaders, point persons, greeters, and others needed Sunday service volunteers. She will assist with communication. She is currently working with the UCU Connections Task Force to help with coordination of services to members and friends as UCU responds to the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic.

From Bonnie: “Greetings from your church’s temporary Congregational Administrator. This position is an 8 hour/week, 6-month position.

As Congregational Administrator, my focus is on:

- Coordinating the many volunteers who give their time to make Sunday worship possible and providing support for the Speakers Committee;
- Gathering the information necessary for the Sunday bulletin and sharing it for distribution in the monthly newsletter;
- Providing general clerical support - preparing and distributing printed materials, and provide forms and electronic versions of the forms and documents;
- Answering inquiries coming into the church email and phone.

For now, while the church is closed because of the threat of COVID-19, my focus is still on helping the people in your congregation who make Sunday worship possible and the Membership Committee’s work to reach out and extend a caring hand, especially to those in need in our congregation.

The group is working hard to create an opportunity for the congregation to gather together Sunday mornings online while in-person gatherings are not possible. Church leaders have been learning to use technology new to them, and I have been reaching out to colleagues in other UU congregations for ideas and information. Everyone is quickly learning how to use the Zoom on-line meeting technology by doing - we have been meeting using Zoom. More and more of you will get the opportunity to learn about and use the Zoom online meeting tool on your computer, tablet or phone as time goes on.

I refer to the UCU Covenant of Right Relations: The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a place of safety and integrity for each person’s mind, body, and spirit. We are a supportive and nurturing faith community, honoring and respecting the rich diversity of those gathered here.

Recognizing that warmth, beauty, kindness, and passion will shape us as a congregation of goodwill, generosity, and presence, we covenant to affirm and promise:

- Honesty and authenticity in our relationships
- Words that are supportive and caring, not belittling or demeaning
- A welcoming and non-judgmental attitude
- To respect each person's boundaries of mind, body and spirit
- To listen to one another
- To refrain from displays of temper
- To honor the gifts and blessings of thought and deed.

This is our covenant of right relationship.

You can contact me at: administrator@ucofu.org. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your Congregational Administrator." *Bonnie Graham*

New Member Welcoming, March 1, 2020



A short celebration service is held twice/year to welcome new members who have signed the membership book. Celebrant, Shannon Smith performed the ceremony to welcome new members on March 1. These include **Lee Hamness, Denise Mauer, Amanda and Robb Sutter**. Absent was **Mary Therese Alberg**. It came as a surprise to some, that long-term attendee, **Lee Hamness** finally and officially became a voting UCU member. In his years here, Lee has contributed in many ways – helping with handi-man jobs for the Facilities Committee, shoveling the pathways, acting as greeter with his warm welcoming hugs, attending services most Sundays and often providing special music. UCU friends and now fellow member, don't come much dearer than Lee.

At your first opportunity, please introduce yourselves and find out more about each other.



Children's Religious Education

On March 3, five energetic children from 4 to 10 shared Joy's around the chalice as we gathered to explore water. The atlas shows 7 sides of the globe. We asked the children how many oceans they could name. We all held small globes and looked for large lakes. One child named all five of the great lakes. The major rivers were seen that moved about powerful enough to carve out curves changing landscapes. This common everyday element on which our very lives depend on is sacred. All of life depends on water. Water unites us.

The kids colored lakes they named that were in proximity to their homes. We ended with food and fun. *Wally and Kris*



On March 9th Wally and Kris led two children in sharing our thoughts on birds and migration; how our climate has changed; and seeing Robins staying longer in our area. With a bird calendar and twelve different birds the children guessed the names of most of them. Using magazines, we cut out pictures of seashells and letters to the children's names. And always we danced to the music.

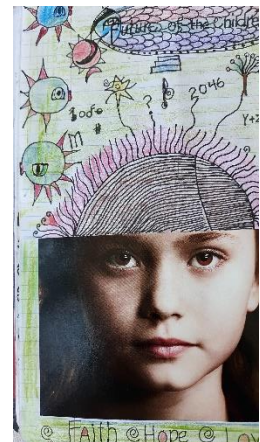
On March 16th: Shannon and Kris led three children. We talked about joys. We talked about COVID-19 virus and how to take care of ourselves to stay healthy. We also made dream boards by cutting out pictures of cars, and futuristic wishes. We made cards for the members that we do not see as

often. And we danced.

Children's RE classes temporally suspended until further notice.

From Kris and Wally: Greetings to our parents and children. We are here to reach out our hands while you stop everything and stay at home with your children. A couple of resources to provide ongoing religious education for your children are at:

www.uua.org/search?as_q=worshipweb. You will find there many short stories that express valued lessons to both children and adults. Here is also a link for fun projects at Josie's art lab at: <https://www.josiesartlab.com>. Or do your own – the one at right is by me.



Remember to dance. *Kris & Wally Warhol and the other Children's RE volunteers*

Together While Apart **By Kelly Barrett**

Every morning I send my Dad a post card. After Mom passed, I did the best I could to help him with his wish to stay at home until you could see it just would not work anymore. Too much heart failure, too much dementia, too many stairs, too much isolation. There was nothing for it but to set him up in an Assisted Living near my brother in Nebraska. There was a time it got a

little better for him. A new heart valve, a pacemaker, friends to share meals with every day. But some things about aging cannot be denied, and Dad's confusion grew, anyways. There are days that talking on the phone is hard for him. He stumbles in conversation, looking for his words. Can't figure out whether to hang up the phone or the television remote. He gets embarrassed. I took to sending him a daily post card. Just some little tidbits about life. Dad still reads even as he grows quiet.

It seems like the whole world is growing quiet right now. Residing 23 miles from the nearest town (800 people), the traffic level on my road has never been much, but with businesses shutting down, churches closed and school out it can be a fair time between the passing of cars. Sent home to telework almost two weeks ago, much of my day is spent with a screen open, headset on, collaborating with my colleagues from a distance. I told Dad I look like an air traffic controller.

It's coming as kind of a surprise to me that in some ways all this social distancing is leading to a greater intimacy. One colleague, a young man with a troubled marriage and two little kids, called to talk about his marital crisis. An old friend, someone I have barely heard from over the past 10 years called to catch me up on her life. She's isolated, stuck at home with a cranky husband and no place to go. You may have experienced the UU's reaching out. It feels good to receive news of how others' lives are unfolding; to stay connected. To offer solace where one can.

My sister-in-law's elderly mother passed last week. At 92 years old it was expected, yet she grieves deeply. There is no good time to lose our people. Lincoln is under an Emergency Declaration. No gatherings of more than 10 people. Two people were permitted to enter the funeral home; six family members could witness internment. Today there was a virtual funeral, a celebration of Theresia's life on YOUTUBE. They made a video, ran it on Theresia's Facebook page. They figure that young people can help older friends and family to see it. Isn't that just the way? There was a service by the pastor, but what I appreciated were all the many candid family photographs from through the years, shown to the tunes of Theresia's favorite music. Video clips from some of the 38 grown grandchildren as they recalled special times with their Oma. A eulogy from Lori. So beautiful, so intimate, the love was palpable.

As bars and restaurants closed the tiny establishments around my area sought ways to stay alive. My favorite effort so far comes from a place called Riley's. Owner Jon posts almost daily on Facebook of the food and drink you can get through carry-out. His goal isn't profit, but simply to keep some salary coming for employees as they struggle through. One post features Jon in an empty parking lot, calling all truckers. "As you can see" he says, "there's plenty of room to turn around!" In fact, Jon will even deliver. We fall within the 10-mile radius. Totally novel to get carry-out delivered to rural Talmoon. So far, we have had pizza and ribs, mindful of the need to share the resources my salary represents.



*Painting by Kelly's mom,
Mickie Edmonds
"April Scilla"*

Like other such facilities, my father's Assisted Living is now closed to all visitors, be they friends or family. And because of the prohibition on gathering, residents are now being fed in their rooms. When he can, my brother stands outside Dad's window while he talks with him on the phone. My sister and I also call every day, and I still send the post cards. It's a slow conversation, and sometimes it's hard for Dad to figure out how to answer the phone. We mostly speak of the squirrels outside our mutual windows, the lights at the neighbor's house, and green grass versus snow. Maybe not the biggest things in life, but the things that rest before Dad's eyes. I think the calls help him. While I might wish there could be a hug this isn't a bad way for us to be together while apart. *Kelly Barrett, Talmoon, MN*

Outing Invitation

Invitation from Janell Miersch

**Photo from the collection of Painter, Mickie Edmonds
(UCU Member now deceased and missed!)**

On a sunny day you might want to take a drive to the impoundment to see the migrating waterfowl. It does change from day to day as birds come in, rest, eat and leave. It is really fun to see!

Here is a link to the information:

<http://www.bds wd.com/Project North Ottawa.html>

Birders have been counting what they see. This site has a list:

<https://ebird.org/pa/hotspot/L2182908?yr=cur&m=&rank=mrec>

If you have GPS on your phone or in the car you can put in the location. Or you can search online for directions to North Ottawa impoundment
North Ottawa Impoundment, 260th St, Wendell, MN 56590



Notes from March Speakers

March 1 – Bob Worner, "Do Unitarians Have a Prayer?" Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/do-unitarians-have-a-prayer-bob-worner-march-1-2020>

Attendance: 43

March 8 - Bob Worner, "Dangerous Practices" relating to Principle #2, Justice, Equality and Compassion in human relationships. Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/dangerous-practices-bob-worner-march-8-2020>

Attendance: 24

March 16 – Michelle Eldion, Otter Tail County Attorney, spoke on **“It Takes a Village; a County; All of Us.”** Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/it-takes-a-village-a-county-all-of-us-michelle-eldion-march-15-2020>.

Attendance: 27

As of March 23, Sunday Services Suspended. Watch for notices of further information, links and podcasts.

April 2020 Health Note from The Welcome Place

The Health Note this month is a difficult one to write. As the Coronavirus situation is constantly evolving and health information is being disseminated constantly (sometime hourly), it seems like more information is not a good thing. It is reasonable to pay attention to the CDC and State Departments of Health for the most trustworthy sources. The consensus seems to be that this is a serious situation that will require a significant amount of effort on everyone's part to move through it.

Churches have made decisions to suspend services and to look at a variety of potential ways to stay in contact with their members. I would strongly encourage everyone to maintain contact with their religious organizations in whatever way is recommended and safe; to practice good hand washing frequently, and to use appropriate disinfectant products when necessary. Social distancing is the recommended advice, with many businesses and organizations closing their services. People who are restricted to their homes may need to contact others to help them resupply their food and medical products.

The latest information seems to indicate a greater amount of time may be necessary before the virus is controlled; at the time of this writing, the time frame is unknown. All I can suggest is that we pay attention to the directives coming from approved agencies and follow them. *Katherine Jordal*



Annual Underwood Annual Community Rummage Sale

Potentially: June 6th

#300 Sverdrup Suites

Being homebound gives us the opportunity to purge our closets and garages to set aside items to donate for the annual rummage sale still scheduled for the 1st Saturday in

June – June 6th. Avoid the virus but don't avoid cleaning out!!

Living Out Our UU Principles



March 16th, the dedication was postponed of the Habitat home as completed for Jaynell Bond and her twin sons, Blake and Carson. As it is, please send them good thoughts with many thanks to the crew that made their new home possible.



UCU Members and friends are invited to share for the newsletter, features on what they are passionate and care about. Here is one from Bonnie Showers:

LOVE RESISTS

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

The ground under our feet is shifting. Suddenly we no longer recognize the landscape we believed we knew so well.

We see you in your struggles, confusion, and fear. We are here with you as we all figure out what we need to do for ourselves, for family both by birth and chosen, for neighbors and congregations and community.

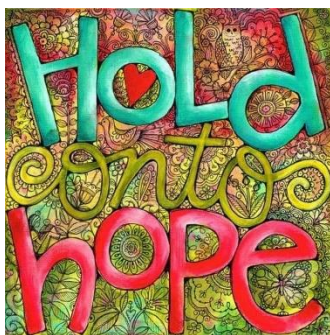
For some of us, the people we hold dear are close at hand. Others may be many time zones away. If people we love are in prison or detention, the inability to take care of them, and knowing the "social distancing" the rest of us are committing to is not available to them, can be incredibly hard. The United States has 2.3 million people in prison – the most in the world. There are 38,000 immigrants and asylum seekers in ICE detention today. They are all at risk with the spread of COVID-19.

Yet these unprecedented times have also made unimaginable changes suddenly possible, especially in the struggle against criminalization. Counties are releasing low-level offenders from jail. A coalition of progressive Prosecutors offices have issued a statement on COVID-19 and the rights and needs of those in custody, committing to changes to reduce incarceration.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones. And as you are able, check out these resources from Love Resists and our partners - and join us in doing what we can to make this moment a transformative one towards a society where all people are valued and have their needs met.

Take action NOW to [call on ICE](#) to release all immigrants from detention. Check out our new "[Five Ways to Organize Locally to Get People Free & Reduce Risk of COVID-19 for People in Detention and Prisons](#)" for sample letters and call scripts you can use to fight for the release of people from immigration detention and prisons, advocate for free phone and video calls to replace cancelled in-person visits, and more. Follow and support movement leadership that is shining the light for us to find the way - [Prison Policy Initiative](#), [Detention Watch Network](#), the [Justice Collaborative](#), the [National Bail Fund Network](#), and many others. Are you involved in immigrant justice solidarity organizing? Love Resists offers you these [Resources on COVID-19](#) from the Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Skill-Share Network.

A prayer from Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen



this is the part where we commandeer cruise ships for people migrating to feast at all you can eat buffets and party pool side and then split the corporate profits with the staff, right?

this is the part where we teach ourselves how to make our own medicine - the kind from herbs and grandma's recipes and vaccines and antivirals and insulin and epi-pens too, right?

this is the part where we open our spare rooms to the college student whose school is closed and the asylum seeker who just got out of detention, and our co-worker who just got evicted and the queer teen who needs a place to crash, right?

this is the part where we feed lunch to the kid whose school is cancelled and text the people who can't be in public spaces anymore and we breathe, right?

this is the part where we introduce ourselves to our neighbors that we've been living next to for 10 years because tomorrow we might need each other, right?

this is the part where we ask, "what do i really need for surviving?" and find a way to seek no more and no less, right?

this is the part where we stay home, we cancel, we show up, we call, we fight, we let go, we stay, we don't let anyone go it alone, right?

this is the part where when we say we, we mean: we elderly, we immunocompromised, we sick, we well, we in prison, we free, we who can buffer our way out with money and privilege and we who definitely can't.

right? right.

UU Ministry for the Earth

Thursday, April 9th @ 6:30-8 PM Central (USA)

Join a book discussion of "As Long As Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock" special guest, author Dina Gilio-Whitaker.

Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes) is the policy director and a senior research associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies and teaches American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos. Dina Gilio-Whitaker will be attending the UUA General Assembly, June 24-28th, in Providence, RI, and providing a keynote address on Sunday, 6/28.

Purchase her book "As Long As Grass Grows" at [Beacon.org](https://www.beacon.org/)

— OR— be one of the first ten new monthly sustaining donors to UU Ministry for Earth (of any amount), and you will be mailed a free copy of the book! Visit www.uumfe.org/giving.

The MidAmerica Region is where UUs visibly live our faith, create connections, grow our membership, and welcome all persons who share our UU values.

<https://mailchi.mp/uua.org/midamerica-messenger-march-2020?e=c4ce273afa>

Get Ready! Earth Day Strikes GO Virtual

From April 22 to 24, young people and adults will come together for a three-day



live stream event focused on climate action. [Earth Day Live](https://www.earthdaylive.org/) is a 72-hour live stream and online mobilization that aims to engage people across the country and the world in collective action to protect their climate and communities. The live stream will include training sessions, performances, and appearances to keep people engaged, informed, and inspired, with speakers including celebrities, politicians, scientists, and youth activists.

Learn more about Earth Day Live [earthdaylive2020.org](https://www.earthdaylive2020.org)

In the meantime, the youth climate strike movement is hosting a [Social Community \(SoCo\) webinar series](https://www.youthclimatestrike.net/social-community-so-co-webinar-series).

Seasons of Giving | Spring 2020

Stewardship and Development News

Unitarian Church of Underwood,

The recent rise of a new strain of coronavirus weighs heavy on our hearts and minds. It's a good moment to take a big breath, turn to one another for support and renew our commitment to the communities we serve.

The support you have given to the UUA is a testament to the ways in which we hold each other in community. **Your generosity strengthens our congregations** and provides crucial support at a time when we are called to live into our Seventh Principle: that we are indeed an interdependent web of all existence.

As UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray noted in her recent statement, "Even if the coronavirus' impacts are greatest for older adults or people with pre-existing health concerns, it is still a health crisis for us all. Marginalized people are always the most vulnerable during any period of heightened fear and anxiety. Be mindful that your language does not label anyone as disposable."

We are also closely monitoring the situation around each of our UUA sponsored events, including General Assembly, that are scheduled in the coming weeks and months. We are moving quickly to create new supports and communication structures for congregations and leaders.

As many of you are involved in stewardship and budgeting in your own congregations, know this: In times of uncertainty members feel the value of their congregations most deeply. This is a good moment for congregational leaders to reach out to members and underscore the value of belonging and giving. **This is a time when community bonds naturally solidify.**

In the meantime, please take good care of yourself, your loved ones and your communities.

In faith and gratitude,

Rev. Lauren Smith

Director of Stewardship and Development

Note: *Traditionally, during this time the UCU operating budget for the coming fiscal year is established and members and friends are invited to consider what they wish to give financially for the coming year. With the cancellation of services, Sunday collections do not occur, but many operating expenses continue. To continue your giving to the mission and goals of the Unitarian Church of Underwood, you may wish to mail your donation to: Unitarian Church of Underwood, PO Box 58, Underwood, MN 56586. Or, please consider signing up for automatic transfer of funds. For the form to sign up, please contact Stewardship Committee Chair, Dave Sanderson @ his home phone # 218/736-2616 (permission granted).*

Meantime, stay in but reach out. Give financially and through your phone calls, emails and social media sharing and help in other ways as you can. Stay well.

Sharings from a Wise Owl



Katy Olson shared this article:

“This content is reproduced with permission from Jared Lloyd Photography and we share it with you here in hopes that it will inspire you as it has us. Please visit the link within the text below to subscribe to his newsletter, [Journal of Wildlife Photography](#), if you enjoy. The above Owl Photo was captured by Jared as well.

Sometimes, when I find myself in a unique situation, especially one so daunting and overwhelming as the approaching quarantines around the world, I find myself looking toward history to find reason and understanding.

History grounds me.

It allows me to transcend time and place by tying me directly into a stream of humanity that goes back thousands of years. It gives me perspective. And it offers up its own means of reassurance in life by teaching me that this has all be done before.

From 1347 - 1665, bubonic plague all but destroyed much of Europe. Somewhere between 1/4 and 1/2 of Europe's population was killed during what historians simply refer to as the Plague Years. Mass gatherings were banned.

And even though people did not yet understand that the disease came from the bite of a flea, the effects of quarantines and self-isolation are writ large across this time period and even our own.

Shakespeare was one of many artists who found themselves locked away in self-quarantine during this time.

An actor and playwright, he watched his career dry up and dissolve with the forced closure of playhouses.

But he understood that all things shall pass. And while in quarantine, Shakespeare, like so many creatives before and after, put this time to good use by crafting two of his most lasting works: King Lear and Macbeth.

Nearly a hundred years before Shakespeare, the early 16th century scholar and father of humanism, Desiderius Erasmus, found himself trapped in the countryside trying to stave off boredom while waiting for the plague to pass.

To do so, he spent much of his time riding backward on horseback scribbling out what would become The Praise of Folly.

And then there is the world's greatest quarantined overachiever of all time: Isaac Newton.

In 1665, a 23-year-old Newton found himself stuck in the countryside on his family's farm of Woolsthorpe Manor under quarantine while the plague once again tore apart the threads of English society.

This time period for him would become known as the annus mirabilis – the miraculous years. Not one to allow his time alone in quarantine to go to waste, the young Newton single-handedly created a new form of mathematics we now call calculus as a means of solving a few problems he was bouncing around in his mind.

Once done, he then laid to rest any questions on the nature of light and color (thank you Newton). And out of sheer boredom one day, while sitting around watching apples fall out of a tree, or so the story goes, he crafted his theory of gravity suggesting that the same force that pulls the apple to the ground must be the same force that keeps the moon rotating around the Earth. When the plague broke and quarantine was ended, he hopped on his horse and sauntered into Cambridge to completely revolutionize the way we see and understand the world.

Entire books have been devoted to the impact of the Plague Years and quarantines on thinkers around Europe.

And it may not be a coincidence that the Age of Enlightenment immediately followed the aftermath of three centuries of plague cycles. Many argue it was the ideas kindled in isolation during this time period that birthed the modern world as we know it.

If Shakespeare can write King Lear, and Newton can create calculus and the theory of gravity, I think it's safe to say that we can, at the very least, use this time to improve our photography.

As I write this, 1 in 5 Americans are under mandatory quarantine or so-called "shelter in place" laws. This country is not alone. Panama, Honduras, Peru, Columbia, and many others have mandated shelter in place laws for all their citizens. A full one-quarter of the global population of 7.8 billion people are now in quarantine.

This is a globally shared experience of the likes we have not seen in a very long time.

What will you do with this time?

Will you finally master Lightroom and Photoshop?

Will you test the waters with other post-processing software like Luminar or On1?

Will you pull out your flash and practice with it on a flower sitting on your dining room table until, at long last, you finally understand?

Maybe catch up on all those back issues of the [Journal of Wildlife Photography](#)?

Will you step out into that patch of woods down the street and finally learn the natural history of your own neighborhood?

Will you spend your days searching for woodpecker cavities and owl nests and fox dens?

Or, maybe you will set up a bird feeder in your backyard with a pretty perch next to it and spend your mornings filling memory cards with photographs and your heart with bird songs.

Our age is not alone.

Artists and thinkers have experienced these sorts of events over and over again throughout history.

And it is up to each of us to decide if we will waste the days away binge-watching Netflix, or if we will usher in our very own Age of Enlightenment.

Cheers,

Jared”

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DRAFT MINUTES (to be approved at next Board meeting)
February 19, 2020, BOARD MEETING

Board members present: Kris Warhol, Tim Lanz, Bob Worner, John Minge, Shannon Smith, Connie Stigen, Alison Francis, and Ron Roller (who came to the meeting at 6:00 P.M.)

Board members absent: Darryl Booker

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. The proposed Agenda was approved. (Tim/Connie) 2. The minutes for the January, 2020 Board meeting were approved without change.

(Bob/Connie) 3. Facilities Committee: Kris reported that there was a fair amount of work to do on the new windows. They don't fit well into their openings-i.e., there are gaps. And they are not yet movable. 4. Program Committee: There was no report on the activities of this committee. 5. Chili Dinner: Kris gave the Board a brief update. 6. Strategic Plan: Shannon provided an update. She has received written reports from some of the committee chairs at a recent meeting. A copy of those reports was provided to the Board. She also said that there are different copies of the current five-year plan floating around. That makes working on the plan a bit difficult. She also said that the Strategic Plan committee has decided that the annual changes to the plan should be put into an addendum that is attached to the plan rather than rewriting those parts of the plan that are being changed or added to.

Treasurer's Report: [Given at 6:00 P.M.] Ron Roller presented and commented on a balance sheet and a profit and loss statement for the Church through January 2020. Ron said the second payment-in the amount of \$8,000—was made on the window project. The final payment of \$9,000 for the windows will be made when the fine-tuning to the windows has been completed. He also reported that twelve empowerment grant applications have been received. The total amount of those applications is about \$28,000. Finally, he reported that the Finance Committee would be meeting in early March to develop a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year of the church.

8. Return to the Strategic Plan: It was moved and seconded that the reports received by Shannon from committee chairs-see paragraph 6, above-regarding changes or additions to the five-year plan would be attached to the plan as an addendum and that that addendum would constitute the result of this year's review-revision of the five-year plan. (John/Bob) After some brief discussion, the motion passed.

9. Vacant Administrative Position: Shannon passed out a job description for this position that she and a few others developed. She also passed out an "FYI" memo from Kathy Burek. Shannon told the Board of the efforts that have been made to fill this position. One person has been approached who is interested in the position on a temporary/trial period. The following

motion was made, seconded, and discussed: That the six-month position as described in the just received and distributed written job description SUBJECT TO THE CHANGES JUST APPROVED BY THE BOARD be offered to the person who has been approached. (Connie/Alison) The motion passed. The following related motion was then made, seconded, and discussed: That \$75 be paid for an "AAUA" membership for the person who is being considered to fill this position if that person accepts the position on the terms approved by the Board. Connie/Alison) This motion also passed. 10. Miscellaneous: (a) Tim told the Board of his positive experience with his participation in a recent "church chat"; (b) no Board member is interested in going to the Midwest Assembly conference to take place later this year; (c) the new "direct deposit" authorization form was shown by Kris to the Board; (d) the new release form for the use of pictures and voice recordings was shown by Kris to the Board; (e) the religious education proposal that has been made (but not yet presented to the Board) should be referred to the RE committee for its consideration; (f) the church now has 90 certified church members (two of whom have recently died) and 31 church "friends" and twelve children; and (g) the mailing lists are not yet ready.

Board President Kris Warhol adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

Respectively submitted this 18th day of March 2020.

John Minge